

## **Eric Xin, CPA becomes a Brown Armstrong Shareholder and is Living the American Dream**

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA (April 15, 2006) - Eric Xin, CPA becomes a Brown Armstrong Shareholder.

When you are little and thinking about what you want to be when you grow up you don't get to know about all of the obstacles that may cross your path while on your journey to achieving your ultimate goal.



For Eric, growing up in Southeast China in a city known as Wuhu, China with his parents, older sister, and younger brother, was about education and bettering yourself for a brighter future. With his mother being a schoolteacher and father being a principal at a High School, education always came first.

Eric was always good at math so he knew he wanted to be in a profession that dealt with numbers. After high school, he attended Nankai University, one of China's top 10 universities, located in Tianjing, China where he studied finance. In 1989, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and was recruited by People's Insurance Company of China (People's Insurance), the largest insurance company in China, to be a financial analyst. While at People's Insurance, he became very familiar with cost accounting, financial analysis, and financial projections. In a four-year period he quickly moved from staff to business manager. His boss had big plans for Eric but they weren't quite what Eric had in mind, as an arranged marriage did not fit into pursuing a master's degree.

His older sister was living in California where she had moved from China to pursue higher education. She encouraged Eric to move to California with her to study abroad and better his English. His sister's husband, John Hulpke, was a professor at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) at the time Eric moved to the States. John helped Eric enroll and encouraged him to study additional accounting classes to work his way towards earning his Certified Public Accounting license. Eric took his advice and began taking classes. He worked in the campus library for the next year and half while taking the necessary classes to earn his master's degree in accounting. John told Eric he was his best investment and never allowed Eric to repay him for the education. While at CSUB, Eric met Pamela, who was also from China and pursuing higher education. They grew closer as they encouraged each other through school and both decided they were pursuing the same dreams and wanted to share a life together and later married in 1998.

After earning his degree in 1996 he began studying for the CPA exam and passed all four parts of the exam in one sitting. He was recruited by Code Plumbing as a staff accountant where he worked for about a year before answering an ad Brown Armstrong CPAs was running for staff accountants. In 1996, Eric interviewed with Brown Armstrong and was hired by Burt Armstrong as a staff accountant to work in their audit division. Within two years he was promoted to senior accountant after completing the necessary audit hours to complete the final licensing requirements.



Eric's work ethic allowed him to quickly excel through the ranks to management and in 2004 he was accepted in to the Partner-In-Training program at Brown Armstrong CPAs. This program would allow Eric to become a shareholder after completing the program and in 2006 Eric became a shareholder.

Eric says, "My biggest hurdle was the cultural differences and language barrier. I was willing to adapt to this new culture in order to accomplish my dream of excelling in business and being successful. Being a shareholder ranks very close to the birth of my daughter Christina, my biggest success."

Eric currently audits the financials of large cities, counties, health care organizations, financial institutions and school districts. He will continue to build upon his success as he grows his part of the practice – he is truly living his dream.

In his spare time, Eric enjoys spending time with his wife Pamela and daughter Christina. Orchid growing is a passion and Eric maintains a "hot house "with about 50 living orchids.



*Partner Group: Back row – Aileen Keeter, Andrew Paulden, Steven Starbuck, Harvey McCown, Eric Xin  
Front row – Peter Brown, Chris Thornburgh and Burt Armstrong*

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